

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for digitally storing a received program, comprising:
 - storing, by a computing device, the entire received program as a first digital copy having a first quality level;
 - converting, by the computing device, the first digital copy into a second digital copy of the entire received program, having a second quality level of lesser quality than the first quality level;
 - storing, by the computing device, the second digital copy simultaneously along with the first digital copy, the simultaneous storage rendering both copies available for a potential replaying for a user at a later time; and
 - after a period of time during which both copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, applying, by the computing device, a retention policy which ~~requires at least~~ instructs deletion of at least a selected ones of the stored first and second digital copies.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving, by the computing device, a request to schedule a recording of the program;
 - determining, by the computing device, a recording quality and a longevity for the program; and
 - associating, by the computing device, the recording quality and longevity with the program;

wherein applying the retention policy is performed based at least in part on the associated desired longevity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the recording quality comprises high, medium and low quality.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining the quality and longevity comprises a selected one of: utilizing a default quality and longevity or prompting for the desired quality and longevity.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein longevity comprises long, medium, and temporary, and wherein applying the retention policy further comprises comparing associated quality settings and longevity to determine which stored copy of a program is to be deleted.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, by the computing device, a request to schedule a recording of the program, the request having an associated quality to utilize for recording the program;
inferring, by the computing device, a longevity for the recording based on the associated quality;
periodically, during the inferred longevity, selecting, by the computing device, a stored copy of the program and determining a lesser quality for the stored copy based at least in part on how long of the inferred longevity the stored copy has been stored;
and
degrading, by the computing device, the stored copy of the program in accordance with the lesser quality.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining, by the computing device, a bitrate and an encoding format for the first and second digital copies, wherein the first and second quality levels are determined based at least in part on the bitrate and the encoding format utilized.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second quality levels are determined based at least in part on a bitrate utilized to encode the first and second digital copies.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second quality levels are determined based at least in part on an encoding format utilized to encode the first and second digital copies.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
converting, by the computing device, the first digital ~~format~~copy into a third digital ~~format~~copy having a third quality level of lesser quality than the second quality level; and
storing, by the computing device, the third digital ~~format~~copy simultaneously with a selected one of the first digital copy, the second digital copy or both the first and second digital copies, the simultaneous storage rendering multiple copies available for a potential replaying for a user at a later time;
after a period of time during which multiple copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, deleting, by the computing device, at least a selected ones of the stored first, second, and third digital ~~formats~~copies in accordance with the retention policy.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
converting, by the computing device, the second digital ~~format~~copy into a third digital ~~format~~copy having a third quality level of lesser quality than the second quality level; and

storing, by the computing device, the third digital ~~format~~copy simultaneously with a selected one of the first digital copy, the second digital copy or both the first and second digital copies, the simultaneous storage rendering multiple copies available for a potential replaying for a user at a later time;

after a period of time during which multiple copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, deleting, by the computing device, at least a selected ones of the stored first, second, and third digital ~~copies~~formats in accordance with the retention policy.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for digitally storing a received program, comprising:

receiving, by ~~the~~a computing device, a first program;

first converting, by the computing device, the entire first program into a first higher quality copy and a first lower quality copy, and storing the first higher quality copy along with the first lower quality ~~copy~~copy in a storage simultaneously, the simultaneous storage rendering both copies available for a potential replaying for a user at a later time;

determining, by the computing device, there is insufficient space in the storage for storing a second higher quality copy for a second program; and

after a period of time during which both copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, deleting, by the computing device, at least one of the first higher quality copy and the first lower quality copy to make room within the storage for storing the second higher quality copy.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein stored copies of the first program each have an associated retention policy, and wherein the deleting the at least one of the first higher quality copy and the first lower quality copy is performed based at least in part on said associated retention policies.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the deleting the at least one of the first higher quality copy and the first lower quality copy is performed ~~at~~ based at least in part on storage requirements for the second higher quality copy of the second program.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the deleting the at least one of the first higher quality copy and the first lower quality copy is performed ~~at~~ based at least in part on storage requirements for the second higher quality copy of the second program.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
receiving, by the computing device, the second program;
second converting, by the computing device, the second program into the second higher quality copy and a second lower quality copy; and
storing, by the computing device, the second higher and lower quality copies in the storage simultaneously, the simultaneous storage rendering both copies available for a potential replaying for a user at a later time.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
determining, by the computing device, a first quality level associated with the first program, wherein converting the first program into the first higher quality copy comprises encoding the first program with a bit rate determined based at least in part on the first quality level.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
applying, by the computing device, selected ones of global policies to all stored copies; and
altering, by the computing device, the stored programs in accord with a selected global policy.

19. (Currently Amended) A personal video recorder (PVR), comprising:
a video encoder configured to encode an input signal corresponding to a program into a higher quality copy of the entire program for storage in a storage;
a transcoder configured to convert in the storage the higher quality copy of the program into at least one copy of the entire program with lesser quality for simultaneous storage along with the higher quality copy of the program, the simultaneous storage rendering both copies available for a potential replaying for a user; and
a storage manager configured to inspect the policies within a policy store associated with the storage manager and to apply selected ones of the policies to copies of the program so as to manage consumption of the storage.

20. (Original) The PVR of claim 19, wherein the transcoder stores the higher and at least one lesser quality copies of the program as components of a scalable bitstream.

21. (Currently Amended) The PVR of claim 19, wherein applying a selected one of the policies by the storage manager includes the storage manager deleting the higher quality copy of the program from the storage after a period of time during which both copies are available for a potential replaying for a user.

22. (Previously Amended) The PVR of claim 19, further comprising:
a video decoder configured to be used in conjunction with retrieving a best available copy of the program from the storage, configured to convert the best available copy of the program into an output format suitable for presentation to a display.

23. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising
a storage medium for digitally storing a received program; and
a plurality of programming instructions designed to program an apparatus and

enable the apparatus to

store in a storage the entire received program as a first digital copy having a first quality level;

convert the first digital copy into a second digital copy of the entire received program having a second quality level of lesser quality than the first quality level;

~~temporarily~~ simultaneously store the second digital copy in the storage along with the first digital copy, the simultaneous storage rendering both copies available for a potential replaying for a user; and

after a period of time during which both copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, apply a retention policy which ~~requires at least~~ instructs deletion of at least selected ones of the stored first and second digital copies.

24. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 23, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to:

receive a request to schedule a recording of the program;
determine a desired recording quality and a longevity for the program; and
associate the quality and longevity with the program, wherein the data, which when executed applies the retention policy, further includes data for applying the retention policy based at least in part on the associated desired longevity.

25. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 23, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to

determine a first bitrate for encoding the first digital copy; and
determine a second bitrate for encoding the second digital copy;
wherein the first and second quality levels are respectively determined based at least in part on the first and second bitrates.

26. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium for digitally storing a received program; and a plurality of programming instructions designed to program an apparatus and enable the apparatus to

receive a first program;

first convert the entire first program into a first higher quality copy and a first lower quality copy, and storing the first higher quality copy along with the first lower quality copy in a storage simultaneously, the simultaneous storage rendering both copies available for a potential replaying for a user at a later time;

determine there is insufficient space in the storage for storing a second higher quality copy for a second program; and

after a period of time during which both copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, delete at least one of the first higher quality copy and the first lower quality copy to make room within the storage for storing the second higher quality copy.

27. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to

receive the second program;

~~second~~ convert the second program into the second higher quality copy and a second lower quality copy; and

store the second higher and lower quality copies in the storage simultaneously, the simultaneous storage rendering both copies available for a potential replaying for a user at a later time.

28. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to

apply selected ones of global policies to all stored copies; and

alter the stored programs in accord with a selected global policy.